

# Ipswich City Council

# Bottle Alley

# History

## TROVE – DIGITISED NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

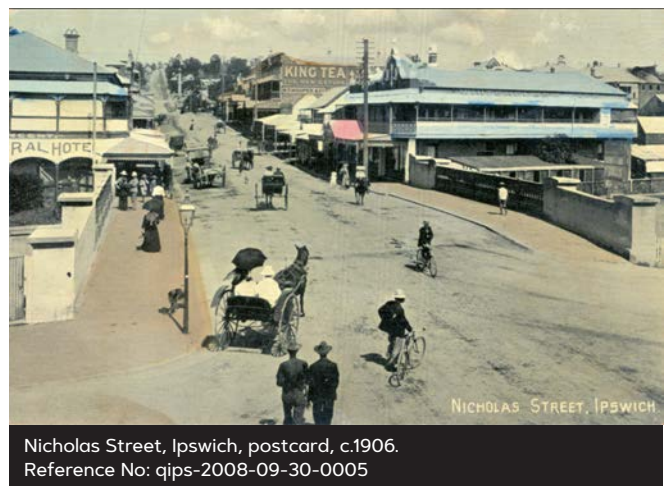
**Queensland Times, Saturday 16 May 1914.  
Page 7, Mr Charles Fleischmann of Nicholas Street.**

When Mr C Fleischmann was six years old his parents, Mr and Mrs John Fleischmann left Germany for Moreton Bay, departing from Bremen in the sailing ship Deana. In November of 1858, the voyage occupying six months. The subject of this sketch was born at Wurttemberg, Germany on the 15 of March 1852. Subsequent to their arrival in what is now Queensland, the new arrivals stayed, for a time, at the residency at Kangaroo Point, of Mr Charles Fleischmann, Mr John Fleischmann's brother. Later on Mr and Mrs John Fleischmann and family came to Ipswich in the old river steamer Hawk, and resided in this city from that time onwards. Their first domicile was a wooden cottage, situated on the property of the late Mr William Vowles, between Nicholas and Ellenborough streets. Those premises were the Ellenborough street sections of what is now the property of Mr F. W. Whitehouse's Nicholas-street restaurant, originally owned by the said Mr W Vowles. In the old days, 50 odd years ago, there was a lane, called 'Bottle Alley,' running through from one street to the other, this narrow thoroughfare being for the convenience – as a 'short cut' – of the residents of Ellenborough street, in which there were no places of business.

*\*The article infers that Bottle Alley was in existence as early as 1864 which is substantiated by the article below.*

**Queensland Times, Friday 30 April 1920. Page 5**

New pathway, connecting link with Nicholas and Ellenborough streets. 'bottle alley' lane. Probably before this week is ended the new pathway between Nicholas and Ellenborough streets will be open to public thoroughfare (writes "Red Gum").



Nicholas Street, Ipswich, postcard, c.1906.  
Reference No: qips-2008-09-30-0005

Since the construction works in connection with the erection of the new railway Station on a site between Waghorn and West street, the whole disposition of Ellenborough street has been altered out of all sight of a few years ago, and included in alteration was the pulling down of the overbridge which extended across the railway line from Union street to Ellenborough street, thus giving a continuous thoroughfare from the present railway station or Nicholas street to those who resided on or had business with, the West End or Woodend, or to the worshippers of St Mary's Church who lived in the East Ward. This overbridge had been in use for some 41 years.

Previous to its erection there was a roadway right through from Nicholas to Ellenborough street, this thoroughfare having been previous to the erection of the original railway erected facing Ellenborough street, made by the Government of that day, after having been purchased what was then private property owned by the late Mrs Malcolm McLean, an esteemed lady resident of Nicholas street in the 'good old days,' and mother of Messrs James and John McLean, of Limestone street.

This road was utilised by Messrs. Cobb and Co.'s coaches and other vehicular traffic for some 9 years from 1865 to 1874. Previous to the commencement of the railway era in 1864, there was a lane styled 'Bottle Alley' between Nicholas and Ellenborough streets, running right through the properties of the late Mr William Vowles now the site of Whitehouse's Cafe which was formed for the convenience of the residents of Ellenborough street to take a short cut into Nicholas street, so doing away with the necessity of going round the North Star corner.

Mr William Vowles also owned the property opposite to what is now the Whitehouse Café, and there has nearly always been a public house conducted thereon. At any rate, during the mid 50's and in the latter part of the 50, and the early parts of the 60, decades the late Mr William Thompson was the lessee of the hotel under the sign of the 'Horse and Jockey'. Hence, so the story goes, the reason for the lane being made through Mr Vowles's property on the west side of Nicholas street was for the convenience of customers living in Ellenborough and West streets.

Be that as it may, the 'boys of the old Nicholas and Ellenborough streets' brigades' knew that old lane well, leading to which, from the Ellenborough street. The parents of Mr Charles Fleishmann resided on Mr Vowles's property, the late Mr John Fleishmann having carried on the business of a saddler there for some time. What memories of boyhood that 'Bottle Alley' lane brings forward. As to Ellenborough street, the first public house opened there was conducted on a site now occupied by the Ellenborough street railway overbridge. This was during the latter part of the 40 decade. It was known as the Travellers Rest, so I was informed, the lessee having been the late Mr Charles Watkins, who subsequently became a well known identity as 'Charlie Watkins'. During the 60's he became an alderman and was for many years associated with the Ipswich Hospital as its secretary.

He was always a popular man. After having been a 'pub', a ginger beer factory, and what not, it became the office of the second newspaper published in Ipswich, which occurred on the 4th of July 1859, and was named the 'Ipswich Herald', merging eventually into the 'Queensland Times' in October of 1861. Then came the railway era in 1864, the first terminal station having been erected in Ellenborough street. This was the pioneer railway station in this state. In Ellenborough street, at this period lived the late Mr William Henderson and his family, he having been a well known carrier of those days, and whose property faced the old railway station.

Mr William Henderson conceived the idea of erecting a substantial hotel, which idea was carried into effect and its erection was almost contemporaneous with the completion of the original railway station. On the two storied brick building being finished, the late Mr William Trotter one of the early building contractors of Ipswich, and who was responsible for the erection of the present Court house in East-street in 1859 opened it as the 'Commercial Hotel' during the latter half of 1866, he having had that license transferred from the one he has previously kept in Bell street, to Ellenborough street. The original brick Commercial Hotel disappeared in April of 1916?, and the present Commercial Hotel premises have taken its place. Ellenborough street, as I have said, is entirely altered, and the Commercial Hotel is the only land mark, a substantial one, by the way, now left to gaze upon.

**Queensland Times, Saturday 23 November 1946.  
Page 2, Bitumen for Bottle Alley**

The Ipswich City Council and the Railway Department are cooperating in making a respectable passageway of Bottle Alley, the lane between Ellenborough street and Nicholas street, above the main line. The Department has stated that it will surface the lane with bitumen if the council surfaces the flank of Ellenborough street and provides a concrete kerb and footpath. A recommendation from the works committee that the work be carried out as soon as possible was adopted at yesterday's meeting of the council.

**Queensland Times, Tuesday 24 January 1950.  
Page 2, How 'Bottle Alley' was named**

The reference recently to, origin of the name 'Bottle Alley' being a mystery has caused some delving into the faded files of history. It has been ascertained that there is a reason for such a name having been given to the 'short cut' from Nicholas street to Ellenborough street or vice versa. It was recorded in the 'Queensland Times' some years ago that between the brick shops (owned by Mr W Vowles) of Messrs Harry Brooks and John Hackshall, both of whom had bakery businesses, was a lane named 'Bottle Alley', a small thoroughfare which ran through from Nicholas street to Ellenborough street, and which was placed there for the convenience of Mr Vowles's Ellenborough street, customers, he having established in 1847 a hotel on the opposite side of Nicholas street. This hotel was probably the 'Horse and Jockey', which later became the 'Volunteer Arms', and which now is the 'Central'.

## PICTURE IPSWICH IMAGES

Images of the lost buildings of Ipswich can be found on the Picture Ipswich website. Photographs of lower Nicholas street (the Mall), Union street and Bell street have been selected to show how these streets once looked. Depending on the approach taken for the proposed Bottle Alley mural/s this could be extended to include buildings in Brisbane street from Ellenborough to Bell streets.



Whitehouse's Café, Ipswich, 1920s. In 1863, F W Whitehouse came to Ipswich and obtained jobs with several Ipswich bakers. His big chance came when the Duke of Edinburgh visited Ipswich in 1868. The bakery owner was absent and his young employee, Frederick Whitehouse did the catering. He then started his own business, in Nicholas Street, (near the Ipswich Railway Station), as a caterer and baker. Reference No: whd-002-gpl-0044p



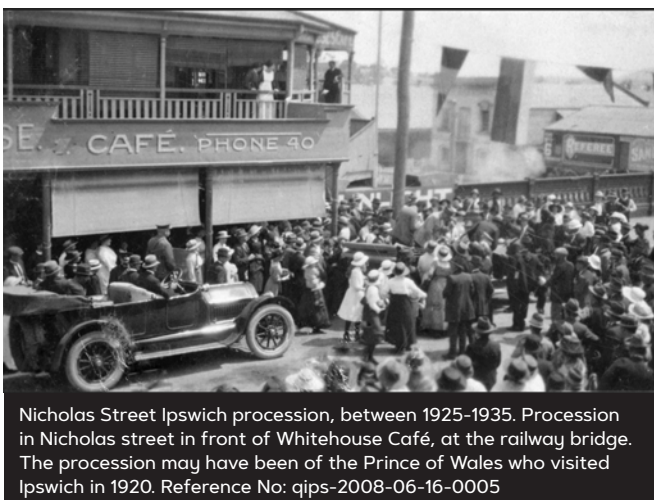
Postcard of signal box at railway station, Ipswich, c.1914. Whitehouse Café in right background. Dalton Bros shop and T C Beirne building on left. Laneway known as 'Bottle Alley' has a sign from the 'City of Ipswich' that reads 'Any person caught riding a bicycle or horse on this right of way will be prosecuted. By order, Albion Hayne, Town Clerk'. Source: Picture Ipswich, reference no: qips-2013-3-14-0001



Corner Union and Nicholas Streets, Ipswich early 1960s. Whitehouse Café beside the railway bridge, with the Bounty Inn next to the café. Central Hotel (Jeff McLean) licensee, opposite the Café. Image taken from T. C. Beirne building. Reference No: qips-2011-02-01-0023p



Nicholas street towards Brisbane street, postcard, Ipswich, 1930s. Now the Ipswich Mall (2015), view looking towards Brisbane street. Shops on right include, Whitehouse Café, Fleischmann's Harness Maker and Commonwealth Bank. Reference No: qips-2014-09-02-0008



Nicholas Street Ipswich procession, between 1925-1935. Procession in Nicholas street in front of Whitehouse Café, at the railway bridge. The procession may have been of the Prince of Wales who visited Ipswich in 1920. Reference No: qips-2008-06-16-0005





Nicholas street, looking South towards Brisbane street, Ipswich 1956. This streetscape of Nicholas street shows business including Del-Rae Salon (in the Whitehouses Café building); Rockmans; Saba Bros.; The City Silk Store; Ipswich Hardware; and Berry. The buildings were demolished in 1987 as part of the revitalisation of the Ipswich CBD. Saba's is the only building remaining, currently occupied by Bendigo Bank (2014). Reference No: WHD-014-NEG-1084



Nicholas street towards Brisbane street, Ipswich, 1959. Nicholas street, looking south to Brisbane street. Buildings from top right hand side: Commonwealth Savings Bank, Berry's Small Goods, Commercial Bank of Australia, O'Sullivan Brothers, Ipswich Estate Agency, City Silk Store, Ipswich Hardware (Agent for Lowes Drycleaners, West Moreton Television, Radios, Refrigeration, and Kelvinator Refrigerators), E W Vance, Chemist and C M Williams Hemstitching above the Chemist. On the opposite side of Nicholas street from bottom left corner: Penneys and Music Masters store can be seen. A utility truck from Cribb and Foote is just past the pedestrian crossing. Reference No: WHD-013-NEG-0544



Nicholas street looking towards Brisbane street, Ipswich 1985. This area of Nicholas street would be demolished as part of the revitalisation of the Ipswich CBD, it would form part of the Ipswich Mall. A new Trades Hall would be constructed in Bell street. Mad Barry's store can be seen in centre of image. Reference No: qips-2009-09-16-0083



Nicholas street, Ipswich, postcard 1930s. Reference No: qips-2008-06-22-0007



Nicholas street from corner Union street, Ipswich 1985. This area was demolished as part of the 1980s revitalisation of the Ipswich CBD and is now the Ipswich Mall. Reference No: qips-2009-09-16-0105



Nicholas street looking south towards Union street, Ipswich, c.1985. This area of Nicholas street would be demolished and redeveloped in the 1988 and 1987 as part of the revitalisation of the Ipswich CBD, to form part of the Ipswich Mall, which would open in August 1987. Taken prior to demolition work, the businesses include (from left) Walter Reid Building Materials and Hardware Centre; Waltons Department Store (formerly T. C. Beirne); Ipswich Centre; hotel; Coles; and Chandlers. The Trades Hall is on the right, with the Commonwealth Banking Corporation building appearing in the distance at the intersection of Nicholas and Brisbane streets. Reference No: WHD-016-PRI-1888



T. C. Beirne building, Ipswich 1954. Irish retailer T.C. (Tom) Beirne started a small branch of the store in August 1893. These premises at the corner of Nicholas and Union streets, were built in 1902. (Information taken from: R. Buchanan, Ipswich in the 20th century; celebrating 100 years as a city 1904-2004, 2004). It would later become Waltons. It would be sold in 1987 and demolished to form part of the Ipswich CBD redevelopment. Reference No: WHD-014-NEG-1005p



T. C. Beirne building and staff, 1920. Reference No: qips-2008-09-30-0008p



Waltons early 1980s. Corner of Nicholas and Union streets, this building was originally built by T.C. Beirne and Co. Thomas Charles Beirne erected the building about 1892. He also had stores in Mackay and Brisbane. Waltons Ltd. was started in 1951 by Sir John Robert Walton and sold to Alan Bond in 1981, and was sold on in 1987 Reference No: qips-2009-04-22-0011



Nicholas street, towards Union street, Ipswich 1985. This part of Nicholas street would form part of the Ipswich Mall. Chandlers, Coles, Miser Jones, Central Hotel and Walton on the corner of Union street. Reference No: qips-2009-09-16-0098





Penney's Department Store, Nicholas street, Ipswich, 1956. Penney's opened in Nicholas street on the 1st December 1938, and included a milk bar and shoe store. (Information from Trove, The Queensland Times Wednesday 30 November 1938). Penney's would later become Coles. The building still remains in the Nicholas street Mall. Sign for Evans and co Refrigerators, Washing Machines, Radios on the shop front. Reference No: WHD-014-NEG-1081



North Australian Hotel, 1 Nicholas street, Ipswich c.1980. The original North Australian building was built 1849-1850 and originally known as the Clare Castle Hotel. T. C. Beirne established the 'Old Pub Jeanery' in the building after the last licensee cancelled his license. Thought to be demolished in the early 1980s. Reference No: qips-2011-10-17-0022



Nicholas street, towards Brisbane street, Ipswich 1985. From bottom left: Miser Jones (thought to have been a bank at one time, in the 1960s was Edward and Lamb), Coles, and Chandlers (Electrical). Reference No: qips-2011-10-17-0013



Old North Australian Hotel, 1 Nicholas street, Ipswich c.1980. Reference No: qips-2012-01-17-0001



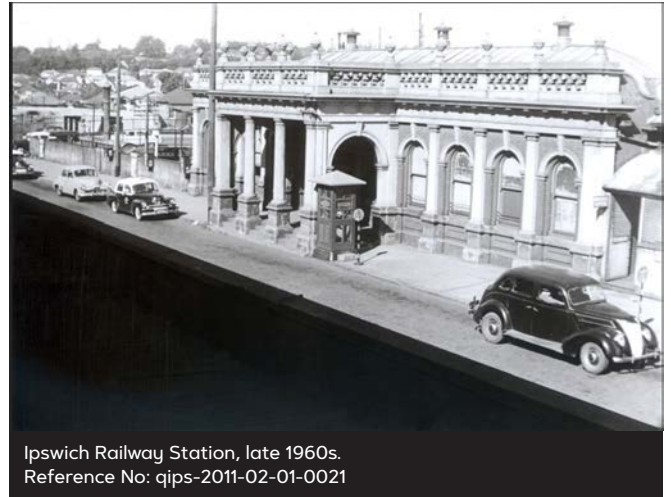
Commonwealth Bank temporary premises, Nicholas street, Ipswich, late 1960s. The Commonwealth Banking Corporation main building was built on the corner of Nicholas and Brisbane streets in the 1930s. During refurbishment in the 1960s the bank was relocated to this site. Coles can be seen on the top left. Reference No: qips-2011-06-23-0046



Taylor's Service Station, Ipswich 1985. Garage at the river end of Nicholas street, this would become the site of the Ipswich Mall and Woolworths Supermarket in 1987. Reference No: qips-2009-09-16-0084



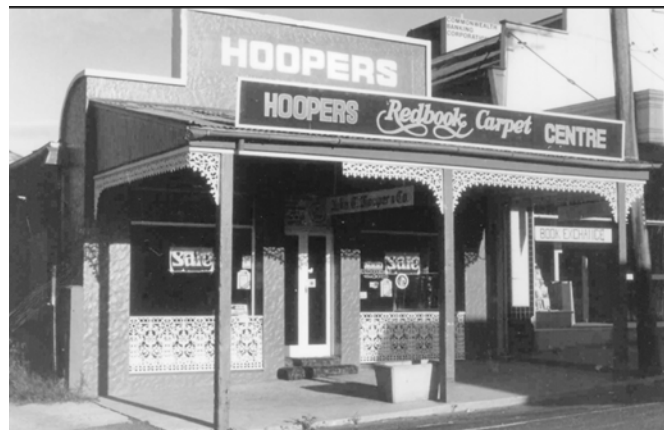
Buildings on corner of Bremer and Nicholas streets, Ipswich early 1980s. Rissons Produce on right of image. This area would be demolished as part of the revitalisation of the Ipswich CBD in 1987. Reference No: qips-2014-07-02-0034



Ipswich Railway Station, late 1960s. Reference No: qips-2011-02-01-0021



Reid's Drive-In Hardware, Bell street, Ipswich ca.1985. Uncle Tom's Pet Cabin is next door. This shop was on the corner of Union and Bell streets, with the hardware store next door that was originally part of the Cribb and Foote businesses. This building was designed by George Brockwell Gill. Reference No: qips-2008-11-03-0016p



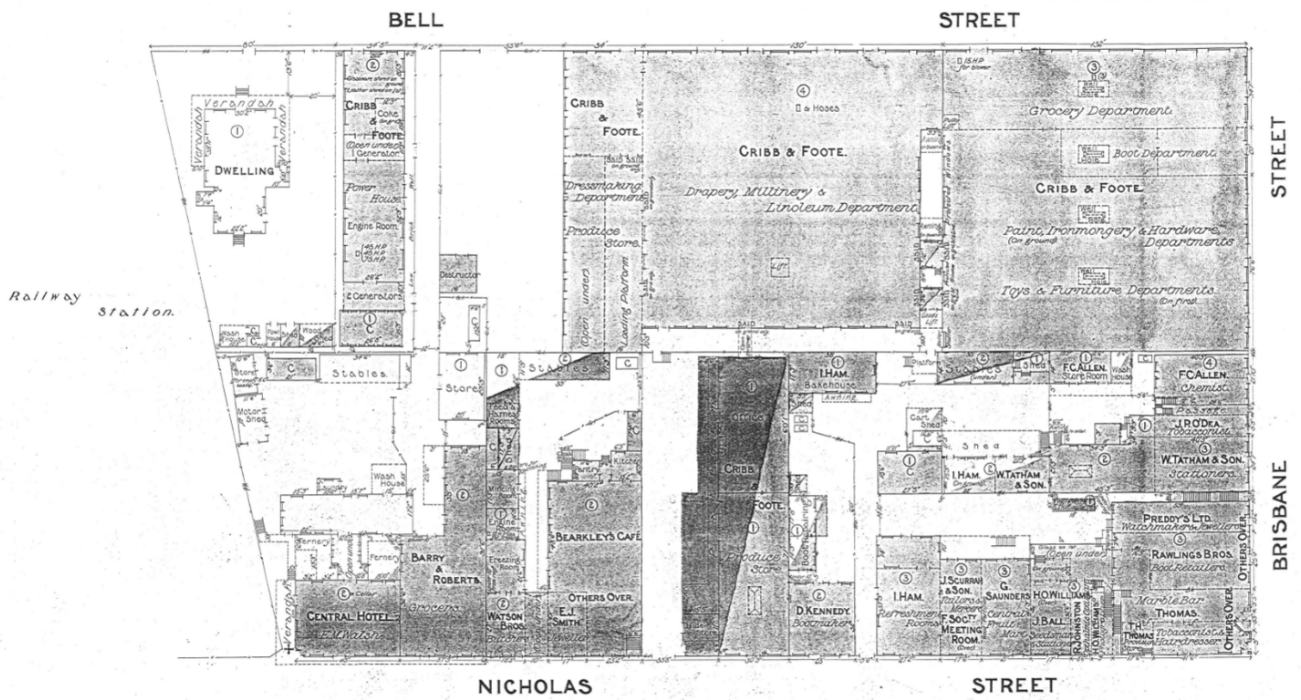
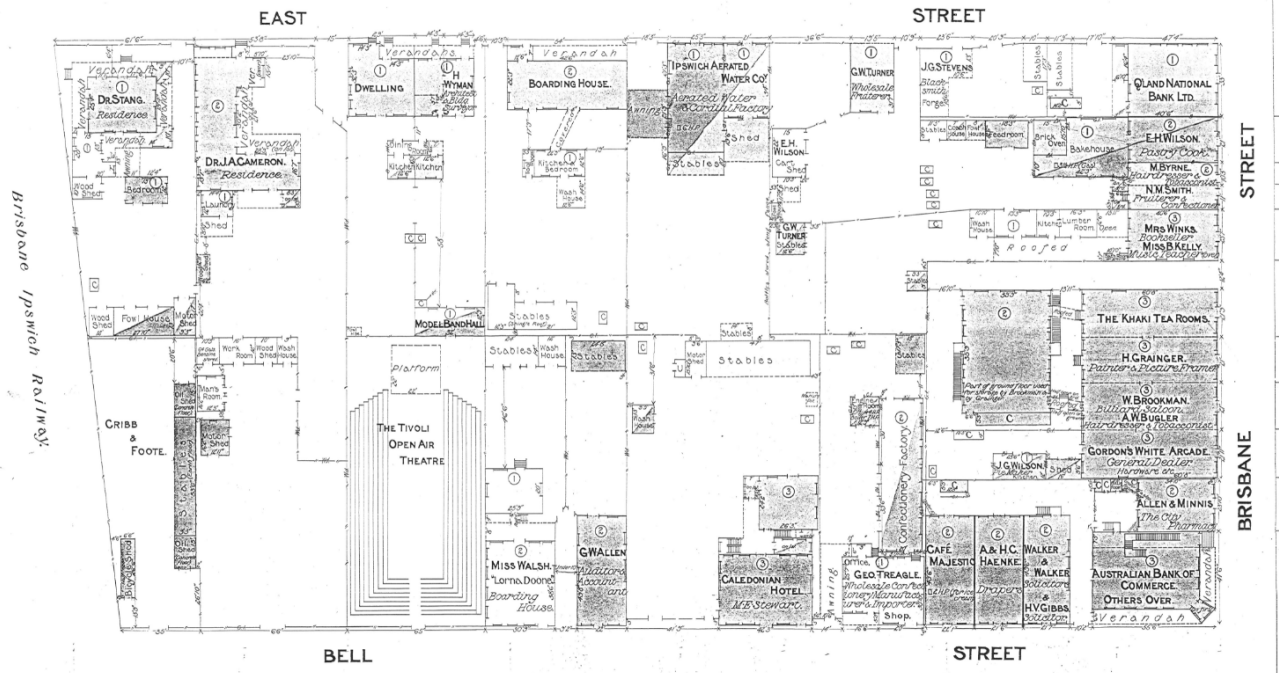
The Hooper family have been part of Ipswich businesses since the late 1800s. This business was beside Bottle Alley. Reference No: qips-2011-10-17-0017p



Postcard of Railway Station, Union street, Ipswich ca. 1906? Reference No: qips-2009-11-13-0013p

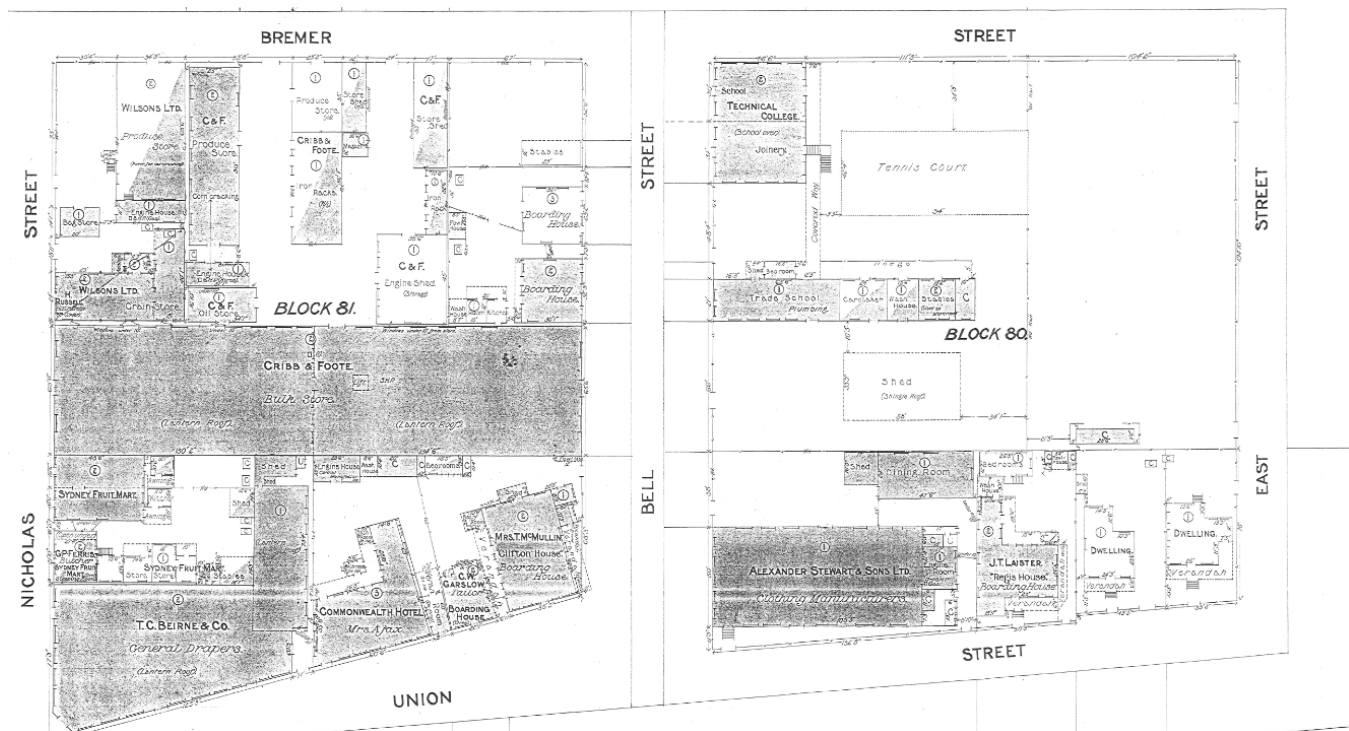
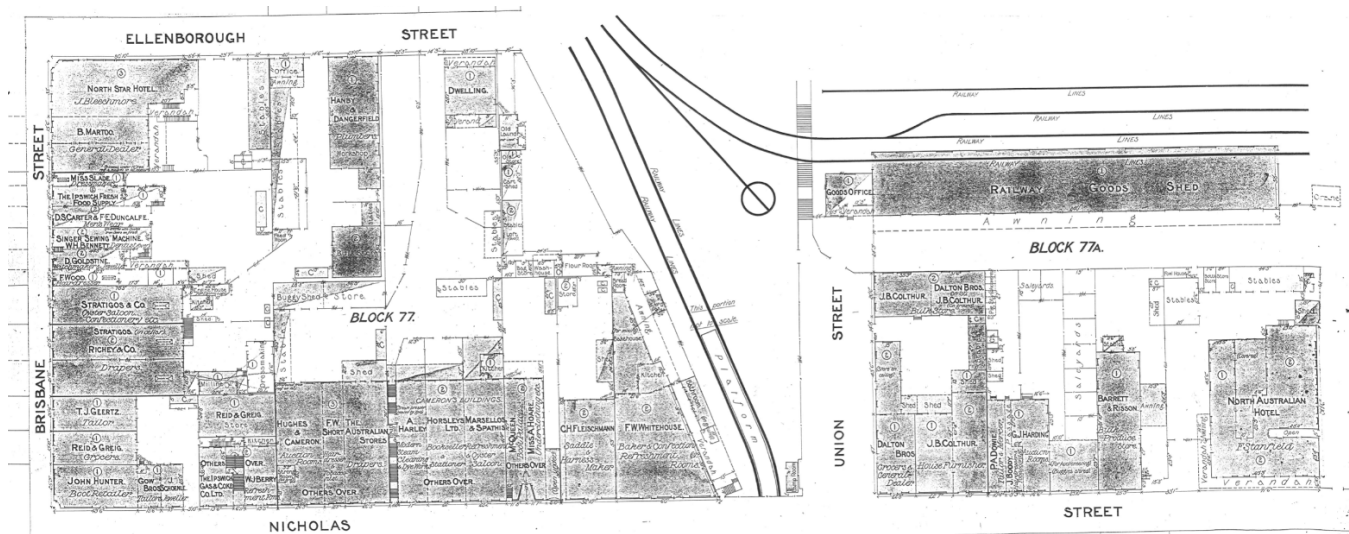


# 1918 BLOCK MAPS

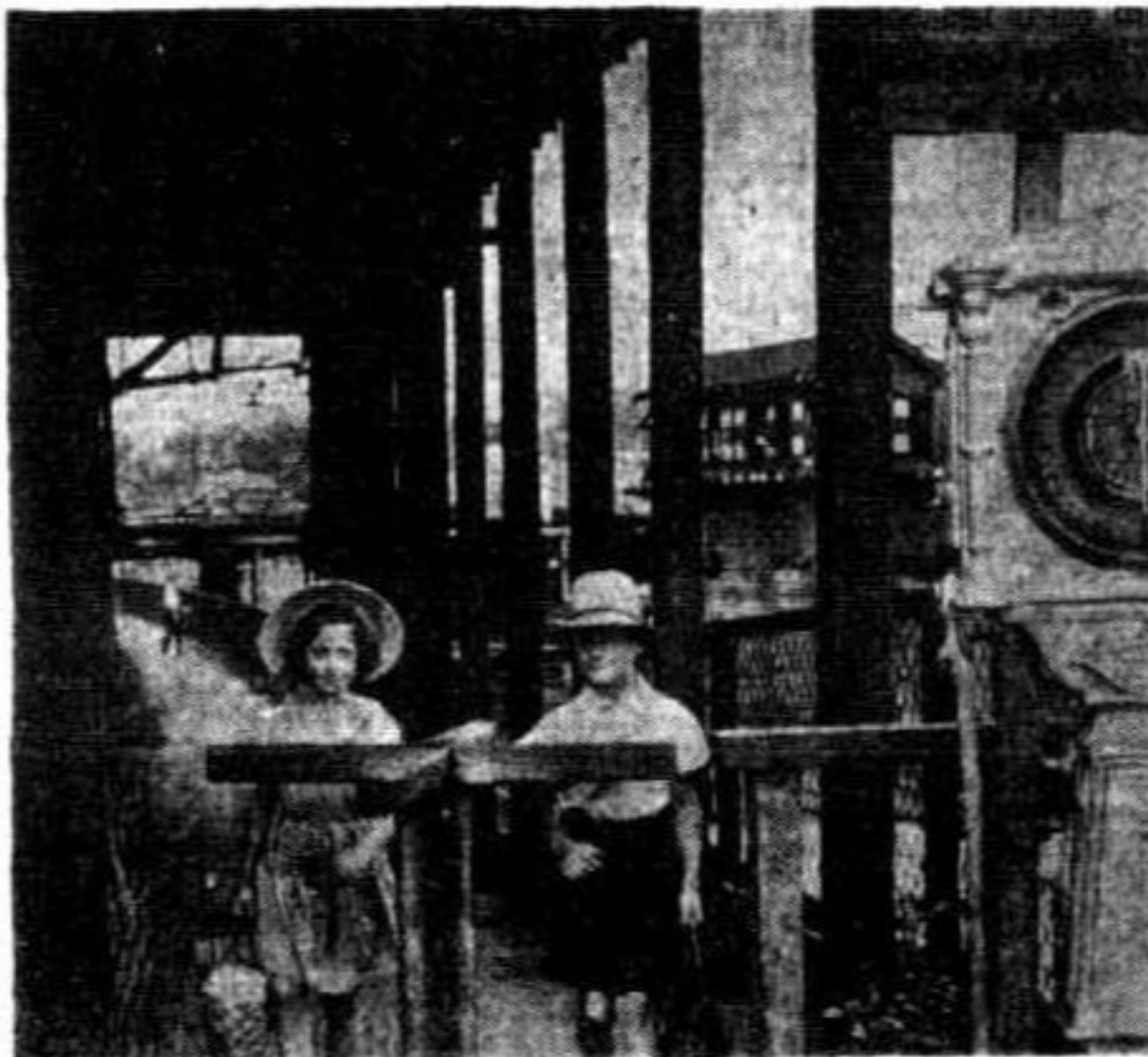




## 1918 BLOCK MAPS



# STRIP OF CONTENTION



This short-cut from Nicholas-street to Ellenborough-street has always been known as Bottle Alley, but the origin of the name is a bit of a mystery. The land is the property of the Railway Department, and its maintenance as a pathway is always a subject for argument between the department and the City Council. The problem had no worries for Harry and Phyllis Roberts, shopping bound yesterday.



## IPSWICH BATHS

Ipswich swimming pool (known as "baths") was opened in January 1921 at the river end of Bell Street. Timber dressing sheds were provided with upper galleries that could seat up to 700 people. The pool was approximately 30 metres long and the river water was changed two or three times a week. (Information taken from Ipswich in the Twentieth Century by Robyn Buchanan, 2004:66)



Ipswich Baths, 1920s. Ref: whd-004-gpl-0147p



Ipswich Baths, 1920s. Ref: whd-003-gpl-0118p



Ipswich Baths, 1935. Ref: 1ips-2008-06-16-0002p

## NORTH STAR HOTEL

Was located on the corner of Ellenborough and Brisbane Streets, opposite St Paul's Anglican Church. Originally built in the 1850s, it was thought to have been a one storey brick building, built by T. Brennan with hand-made bricks baked in an old gully near Martin Street. This new building was designed by architect Samuel Shenton and built in 1888 when John McGrath was the licensee. Shenton also designed the Queensland Times building of the day and the home Garowie on Whitehill Road, Ipswich. Shenton was Mayor of Ipswich in 1871 and 1889 and was a councillor over a number of years, in the 1860s to 1890s. The building was demolished in 1986, as part of the revitalisation of the Ipswich CBD.



North Star Hotel, Brisbane Street, Ipswich, 1890s. Ref: qips-2010-11-11-0008p